

I claim:

1. A computer method for allowing access through a computer operating system user interface to prior and subsequent generations of data saved in a memory, comprising:

- (a) saving in a memory a first generation set of data and a first data address table specifying at least one location of the set of data in the memory;
- (b) receiving new data with which to modify the first generation set of data;
- (c) adding the new data to the memory while leaving the first generation set of data unchanged and saving in the memory a second data address table specifying at least one location of the new data; and
- (d) with a user interface accessible via a user interface function of the operating system of the computer, displaying identifiers of both the first generation data set and a second generation data set resulting from the first generation data set as modified by the new data which identifiers may be selected by a user using a feature of the operating system.

2. A computer readable carrier containing computer program instructions which, when run on a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 1.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising, receiving a selection of the second generation data set and then reading the data of the second generation

data set, including at least one data element of the original data set, according to address locations specified by at least the second data address table.

4. A computer readable carrier containing computer program instructions which, when run on a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 3.

5. The method of claim 1 where the new data adds to the first generation data set without replacing data of the first generation data set.

6. A computer readable carrier containing computer program instructions which, when run on a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 5.

7. The method of claim 1 where the new data replaces at least a portion of the first generation data set.

8. A computer readable carrier containing computer program instructions which, when run on a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 7.

9. The method of claim 7 where the new data replaces at least a portion of the first generation data set with null data.

10. A computer readable carrier containing computer program instructions which, when run on a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 9.

11. The method of claim 1 where the operating system is a Windows operating system.

12. A computer readable carrier containing computer program instructions which, when run on a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 11.

13. The method of claim 12 where the user interface function of the operating system is a Properties function with respect to the memory.

14. A computer readable carrier containing computer program instructions which, when run on a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 13.

15. The method of claim 1 where the memory is a write-once memory.

16. The method of claim 1 where the memory is a write-many memory.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising:

(e) if an instruction is received to modify the first generation set of data, failing to carry out the instruction.

18. A computer readable carrier containing computer program instructions which, when run on a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 17.

19. A computer method for organizing data address tables in a memory having sectors ranging from logically lowest to logically highest, comprising:

- (a) when writing a first data set to a memory having sectors, writing the data set to at least one lowest available sector of the memory; and
- (b) writing a first data address table which specifies logical locations of the first data set to at least one sector other than the lowest available sector of the memory.

20. A computer readable carrier containing computer program instructions which, when run on a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 19.

21. The method of claim 19 further comprising:

- (c) without changing the data of the first data set, writing a second data set to at least one lowest available sector of the memory; and
- (d) writing a second data address table which specifies logical locations of the second data set to at least one sector other than the lowest available sector of the memory.

22. A computer readable carrier containing computer program instructions which, when run on a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 21.

23. The method of claim 19 where the one or more sectors to which the first data address table is written are the highest available sectors.

24. A computer readable carrier containing computer program instructions which, when run on a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 23.

25. The method of claim 19 where the memory is a write-once memory.

26. A computer readable carrier containing computer program instructions which, when run on a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 25.

27. The method of claim 19 where the memory is a write-many memory.

28. A computer readable carrier containing computer program instructions which, when run on a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 27.

29. The method of claim 27 further comprising:

(e) if an instruction is received to modify the first data set, failing to carry out the instruction.

30. A computer readable carrier containing computer program instructions which, when run on a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 29.